



Mayor Graves' April Column: Don't Miss the Positives

It is now April and hard for me to believe that we have already passed the first quarter of the year. As the days continue to pass us by, there is a lot of information both negative and positive that comes our way. All too often we focus on the negatives and miss all the positives that surround us. Let me share with you some of the great things that are happening in Gallatin.

BUSINESS HAPPENINGS

The Economy is picking up slowly and Gallatin is certainly seeing the effects. We have had several new restaurants to open – Popeyes, Panda Express, Hibachi Grill, and Bakers Rack on the Square. There is also a new International House of Pancakes that is making its way through the Planning Commission process.

There are several new businesses that have opened in town – Dollar General on Hartsville Pike, Flip Flop Consignment Store on the Square, the new Gallatin Piano Store, and Snapbean Photography. There is also the new Aspen Dental clinic and the Anytime Fitness across from Volunteer State Community College. The Copper Still Wine and Spirits store opened on Long Hollow Pike at the end of the year.

As a matter of fact, since the beginning of this year, January 1, 2013 through the end of March, some 40 new business licenses have been issued by the City. Also Gallatin has had 124 residential and commercial building permits pulled since January 1 of this year – up nearly 10% over the same time last year!

Gallatin continues to do well and prosper in this new year. There are more businesses making inquiries about coming to Gallatin than in the last several years. There is more on the horizon and as it firms up we will continue to tell you how Gallatin *IS* on the move.

EVENTS

This spring there are lots of events taking place in Gallatin that you will want to participate in. The Community Enrichment Committee continues to work to provide events that our citizens have asked for.

On Saturday, May 4th, Gallatin will hold its first annual “Derby Day 5K Run/Walk” event. The runners/walkers will start at the Calvin Short Football Field and progress down Main Street. They will loop around downtown and come back down Main Street returning to the football stadium. Along the run there will be some musical venues playing for the participants’ enjoyment. This is a chipped timed race and has attracted several major sponsors for the race. If you want to enjoy the beautiful outdoors in the month of May go to Active.com and register to run/walk in this event.

Also coming up this month is our annual Squarefest held the last Saturday in April. This is a large festival that has arts, crafts, food, and musical entertainment. Gallatin will also be hosting the annual Classic Car Exhibition at this event. If you have an antique, hot rod, rat rod,

motorcycle, trucks, low riders, or other vehicles come and enter it in the car show. There will be trophies from the Mayor, Sheriff, Police and Fire Chiefs. There is no entry fee.

Also starting in the month of May is our annual “Third Thursdays.” These are free outdoor concerts held on the Square in downtown Gallatin. This year the season will kick off with the WannaBeatles who entertain folks of all ages with classic Beatle favorites. The restaurants downtown provide food and beverages to please every appetite.

There is also “Taste of Gallatin” which is an annual favorite of ours. It has restaurants from all over the city providing a taste of their menu favorites. One price covers as much as you can dare to sample and you won’t go away hungry! This event is Thursday, May 23.

As you can see, Gallatin has a lot going on. Be sure to put the events on your schedule and visit our new businesses. Also, keep up with City news at www.gallatinonthemove.com.